

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-38

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO SUPPORTING
PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREA DESIGNATIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF EL CERRITO

WHEREAS, in 2007 the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) requested nominations from local governments and land conservation organizations for Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) pursuant to the "Focusing our Vision" multi-agency regional planning initiative to identify areas which contain important agricultural, natural resource, watershed, historic, scenic, cultural, recreational, and/or ecological values and ecosystem functions.

WHEREAS, in 2008 the City Council designated San Pablo Avenue a Priority Development Area (PDA) as part of ABAG's "Focusing Our Vision" initiative; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the State Coastal Conservancy developed the Priority Conservation Area (PCA) grant program to fund projects within PCAs and provided \$5 million in funding for a competitive program in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties; and

WHEREAS, in July 2014, as part of the Plan Bay Area implementation effort and as a result of the initial PCA grant program, ABAG updated its Priority Conservation Area application process and designations to introduce four categories to recognize the role of different kinds of PCAs in supporting the vitality of the region's natural systems, rural economy and human health; and

WHEREAS, one of these categories is the Urban Greening category, intended to conserve existing and potential green spaces in cities that increase habitat connectivity, improve community health, capture carbon emissions, and address stormwater; and

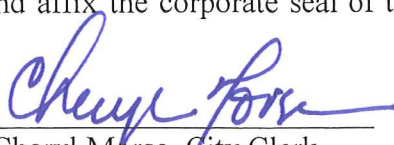
WHEREAS, Designation of Priority Conservation Areas is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and no CEQA analysis is therefore required.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of El Cerrito hereby endorses the Hillside Natural Area, Lower Cerrito Creek (from the Ohlone Greenway to the western City boundary) and the Ohlone Greenway Urban Greening Priority Conservation Areas.


I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on May 19th, 2015 the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Abelson, Bridges, Lyman, Quinto and Mayor Friedman
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on May 20, 2015.


Cheryl Morse, City Clerk

APPROVED:


Mark Friedman, Mayor